

Heirs Hunted To Claim \$1260 Found in Fire Rubble

NEWSPAPER PACT SIGNING ENDS YEAR-LONG DISPUTE

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

5¢
Delivered By Mail
\$2 Yearly

36th YEAR — NO. 6

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1950

Twenty Pages



PROSPERITY BOUND . . . Winsome Miss Erdene Watkins displays the novel ticket "passengers" will be using when they board the Chamber of Commerce's Express to Prosperity for a banquet on February 20. Theme of this year's fete is a "Salute to Transportation." The meal will be served in the main dining salon aboard the S. S. Civic Auditorium . . . now in drydock at El Prado and Cravens avenues. —Herald photo.

Mrs. Earl Conner Number One for Postmastership

President's OK Expected At Any Time

Presidential confirmation of the appointment of Mrs. Clara Conner, to succeed her late husband as postmaster of Torrance was virtually assured, according to a dispatch from Washington.

According to information received yesterday from the Post Office Department and the U.S. Civil Service Commission at the nation's capital, Mrs. Clara A. Conner rates as "eligible No. 1" on the Civil Service list for the position of postmaster at Torrance, California.

In addition to the No. 1 rating, Mrs. Conner has also been given a 10 point advantage by her widow's veteran preference. She is the widow of the late Postmaster C. Earl Conner who served overseas in World War I, and who died in office a year ago Tuesday.

Rated No. 2 on the eligible list for the postmastership is George C. Powell, city councilman. Powell has no veteran's preference, according to Washington advices.

Under the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, no candidate without a veteran's preference can bypass an eligible candidate with such a veteran's preference.

In view of this provision in the law governing appointments, it seems assured that President Truman will nominate Mrs. Conner for the appointment as postmaster in Torrance. It is confirmed on page 7.



FATAL FIRE . . . Coroner's assistants carry the body of Mrs. Marie Allen from the charred ruins of her home at 1413 Carson street. —Herald photo.

500 At Opening Of New Seaside Grade School

"I want to go to school again" was the sentiment of many of the 500 persons who attended the dedication exercises and open house of the Seaside Elementary School Sunday.

education program is well under way at the school with classes in ceramics, lampshade making and square dancing. Earl W. Eckert, principal of (Continued on Page 7)

Awe and delight at the innovations in Torrance's first complete new school in almost 20 years were common expressions as parents and other residents thronged through the pastored rooms and along the sweeping open air corridors connecting the wide flung buildings of the new school ground at 4651 Sharynne Lane in Seaside Ranchos.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Heinrich Hull echoed the admiration of the spectators and said, "Many think the Torrance school system is well on its way to becoming outstanding."

He explained the school board's philosophical belief in the eight grade elementary school . . . because of the advantages to children which we see in having seventh and eighth grade children in an environment that they can understand at a time when they are undergoing the many physical and psychological changes of early adolescence.

We have supplied here the only real advantages the junior high school system can offer—the advantage of specialized experiences in shop training and homemaking. We do not have the disadvantage of junior high schools in which both the teachers and students try to ape high schools."

Dr. Howard A. Wood, chairman of the Board of Education, reminded the audience that Seaside Ranchos, "fortunate in getting the first of Torrance's new schools in the \$359,498 plant, should remember their responsibilities to the other citizens of Torrance and support the proposed \$2,000,000 bond issue to build a new high school and three other elementary schools.

Mrs. Paul Roettger of the Seaside Parent-Teachers Association, officially thanked the board of education for the school and said that the adult

Mother of Triplets Chosen Queen for a Day

Mrs. Mary Musso, mother of triplets and "Queen for a Day" is due to return home today after a three-day Mardi Gras holiday in New Orleans.

Mrs. Musso, and her husband, Glenn, an employee of The National Supply Company, made the air trip as guests of the sponsors of the famous "Queen for a Day" show.

Among the other gifts given the mother of Torrance's first set of triplets were:

A washing machine, a mangle, three baby tenders, three strollers, three lamps, a supply of Beechnut baby food, a compact, a bouquet of American Beauty roses, a watch for both herself and her husband, a set of pearls, a vacuum cleaner, and a complete wardrobe with matching shoes, gloves, and handbag, a waffle iron, and a Drip-a-lator coffee maker.

The 26-year old mother who lives at 2213 Cabrillo avenue, attended the broadcast last Monday with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ethel Dawson, 23305 West-

ern avenue, with whom she went "just to keep her company."

Mrs. Ruth MacDougall, the "Queen for a Day's" sister, of 618 Sartori avenue, cared for Mark, Joe, and Janet, the two-year old triplets while their parents made the air trip to New Orleans.

Crowning of Queen Mary marked the third time that a Torrance woman has hit the royal jackpot. Two earlier royal Queens were Mrs. Jackie DiSario, of 2826 Gramercy avenue, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Donald Cook of 2422 Torrance boulevard.

Call To Post

Race Starts Friday For 4 City Offices

No great rush is expected by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett next Friday when the first day rolls around for filing nominations for four municipal posts which will be filled at the election on April 11.

Posts to be filled include two councilmanic offices now held by Mayor J. Hugh Sherrey Jr. and A. L. Jackson; the office of City Clerk, now filled by Bartlett; and that of city treasurer, now held by Mrs. Margaret Fordyce.

Of the four only Bartlett and Mrs. Fordyce have expressed their intention to seek reelection.

Neither Mayor Sherrey nor Councilman Jackson have indicated whether or not they would run again.

No other candidates have indicated officially they are seeking election to any of the four offices.

Federal Income Tax Filing Aid Available

O. J. Jensen, deputy collector for the Department of Internal Revenue, will be in Torrance February 20, 21, 23, and 24 to assist residents with the filing of 1949 income tax returns. It was announced this week by Charles Kelley, Division Chief. Jensen will meet with local citizens on the dates above in

WHERE'S THE FIRE

Flash dust fire at American Rock Wool Corporation at 401 Arlington avenue, Thursday at 10:29 p.m. Damage slight.

The City Council Chambers between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Oil Lamp Blamed For Fire Causing Death of 80-year-old Woman Here

Because Mrs. Marie Allen elected to live such a secluded life, detectives are having difficulty locating heirs to \$1260 found among the litter in the charred rooms of her home yesterday morning.

The 80-year old woman died in an early morning fire yesterday when flames fed by a kerosene lamp turned her sou-

venir-cluttered home at 1413 Carson street into a flaming torch.

Though salvage squads from the Los Angeles Fire Department found a packet of new \$10 bills among the rubble piled high within the walls of her home, Mrs. Allen had never had the house wired for electricity. She cooked on a wood stove.

Every room in the house was filled with gear the woman had collected on her sorties of can barrels during the past twenty years.

Investigators led by A. J. Fitzgerald, chief estate investigator, for the County of Los Angeles, began the arduous task of digging through an estimated four tons of bottles, paper boxes, used greeting cards, torn lampshades, and a thousand-and-one other pieces of paraphernalia in an attempt to locate a son, or possible grandchildren who would be heirs to the \$1260. A return address on a letter indicated the son might be living in Portland, Oregon.

Neighbors of the aged-souvenir collector said that she had broken with her son in 1930. They said they believed her son had not visited her since that time.

"She sure liked to mind her own business," one neighbor said. "I offered to go into her home to help her one day and she told me no one had been in the house in 20 years."

The remains were taken to Stone and Myers Funeral Home while authorities searched for relatives.

Legion Ladies To Initiate

The auxiliary of Bert S. Smith told the council that the prosecution should rest either on him or the chief of police, instead of both as at present. No action on his suggestion was taken.

Printers, Publishers In Accord

The year old dispute between the Torrance Herald and the San Pedro Typographical Union No. 862, A.F. of L., ended yesterday morning with the withdrawal of pickets from around the newspaper plant, it was announced yesterday by the Herald publishers.

Commenting on the withdrawal of the pickets at the Herald plant at 1619 Gramercy avenue, Franklin A. Thomas, president of the local union, stated that the removal of the picket line was the first step toward the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations which will accomplish a completely satisfactory working agreement between the union and the newspaper publishers.

Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Herald said that under the terms of settlement of the dispute which began a year ago this Saturday, all former employees are being offered reinstatement with full seniority rights.

Union officials said that only three, or possibly four, of the original seven printers would return to their former jobs. The officials stated that other employees had found employment in other newspaper plants outside the jurisdiction of the local union.

No adjustment in wage scale was necessary as a wage scale equal to that of the union rate has been maintained during the period of the dispute.

Appropriate action has been taken to remove the Herald and two companion publications, The Lomita News, and the Dominguez Area Bulletin, from all "Unfair" and "Do Not Patronize" lists, union officials said.

Councilmanic Districting Poses Problem

What propositions are to be put on the April 11 municipal election will be determined at next Tuesday's regular meeting of the city council, the group decided at a special hearing on the matter last Tuesday.

Arousing spirited discussion by councilmen and spectators was the proposal to institute the ward system of councilmanic representation.

A motion to hold the measure over for consideration during the November general election was voted down by a 3-2 majority. Favoring the delay were Councilmen George C. Powell and Nicholas O. Drake.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett said he personally favored the delay since the later figures on voter registration would provide a more equal division of population.

No opposition was expressed to several other propositions which have been suggested. These include a \$250,000 bond issue for a swimming pool, remuneration for councilmen, a pay raise for the City Treasurer and granting of civil jurisdiction to the city court.

City Attorney C. Douglass Smith told the council that the prosecution should rest either on him or the chief of police, instead of both as at present. No action on his suggestion was taken.



ROYAL KISS . . . Mrs. Mary Musso, "Queen For A Day," kisses goodbye to her triplet sons and daughter as she prepared to leave Monday for an air trip to New Orleans' Mardi Gras as the guests of the radio-show sponsor, Mrs. Ruth MacDougall, a sister-in-law cared for Mark, Joe and Janet while their parents were gone. —Herald photo.